

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00
PA-02 ICA-20 SP-02 JUSE-00 /049 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/AND/CH:RSSTEVEN
APPROVED BY ARA/AND/CH:RSSTEVEN
-----075808 110317Z /75

R 102249Z APR 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

UNCLAS STATE 091806

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: PGOV, SHUM, CI

SUBJECT:LETELIER/MOFFITT ASSASSINATION INVESTIGATION:
TOWNLEY EXPULSION FROM CHILE

1. FOLLOWING IS UNOFFICIAL, UNCORRECTED EXCERPT FROM
NOON PRESS BRIEFING APRIL 10, 1978 FOR YOUR INFORMATION
AND GUIDANCE: (FORMAL ANNOUNCEMENT) QUOTE:

WE HAVE BEEN ADVISED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE THAT
ASSISTANT US ATTORNEY EUGENE PROPPER RETURNED APRIL 6
FROM HIS SECOND VISIT TO CHILE IN CONNECTION WITH THE
LETELIER/MOFFITT ASSASSINATION INVESTIGATION. HE BROUGHT
WITH HIM THE FORMAL RESPONSE TO THE LETTERS ROGATORY, AND
THOSE RESPONSES WILL BE TURNED OVER TO THE DISTRICT
COURT. THE CHILEAN GOVERNMENT COOPERATED FULLY AND
EFFICIENTLY WITH THE INVESTIGATORS AND, AS A RESULT,
PROGRESS WAS MADE WHICH MIGHT NOT OTHERWISE HAVE BEEN
POSSIBLE. WE EXPECT THIS COOPERATION TO CONTINUE. END
QUOTE.

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2. QUOTE

Q. ON THIS CASE, TOM, THE RETURN OF ONE OF THE ALLEGED
SUSPECTS, TOWNLEY, I GUESS IT IS.

A. YES, MICHAEL V. TOWNLEY.

Q. HOW DID THE STATE DEPARTMENT ARRANGE THAT? HE WAS NOT, AS I UNDERSTAND, EXTRADITED? IS THAT RIGHT?

A. I'M ABLE TO CONFIRM THAT MICHAEL V. TOWNLEY, AN AMERICAN NATIONAL, WHO MAY BE A KEY WITNESS IN THE INVESTIGATION OF THE ASSASSINATIONS OF LETELIER AND MOFFITT IN 1976, WAS EXPELLED ON SATURDAY MORNING FROM CHILE. HE ARRIVED IN THE UNITED STATES SATURDAY EVENING, APRIL 8, AND WAS PLACED UNDER ARREST.

NOW SINCE WE ARE AT THIS STAGE AND THESE PROCEEDINGS HAVE GONE THUS FAR I'M GOING TO SUGGEST TO YOU THAT ANY FURTHER QUESTIONS BE ADDRESSED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE.

Q. TOM, WHAT I WAS TRYING TO FIND OUT WAS HOW, WHAT WAS THE PROCEDURE UNDER WHICH HE WAS EXPELLED? DID THE UNITED STATES REQUEST IT AND WAS THAT PART OF THE EFFICIENT COOPERATION WE'RE GETTING FROM THE CHILEAN GOVERNMENT?

A. I'M NOT SURE I HAVE A PRECISE DEFINITION FOR YOU OF WHAT PROCEDURES WE EMPLOYED. IF YOU WOULD LIKE ME TO FIND OUT FOR YOU UNDER WHAT THEORY WE WERE DEALING WITH THE CHILEANS, I WILL BE GLAD TO DO SO OR IF WE HAVE AN EXTRADITION TREATY WITH THEM. IS THAT THE TYPE OF..?
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Q. SPECIFICALLY, DID WE REQUEST IT AND IS THIS THE PROCEDURE THE ONE WE REQUESTED? IN OTHER WORDS, DID THE SEQUENCE BEGIN BECAUSE THE US WANTED IT?

A. I WILL CHECK THAT FOR YOU.

Q. TOM, ARE YOU SUGGESTING THAT WITH HIS RETURN YOU'VE GOT NO FURTHER CLAIMS ON THE GOVERNMENT OF CHILE WITH RESPECT TO THIS CASE?

A. NO, I'M NOT NECESSARILY SUGGESTING THAT. I AM SUGGESTING THAT WE EXPECT THE COOPERATION OF THE CHILEAN GOVERNMENT WILL CONTINUE IN THE FUTURE IF WE HAVE OTHER MATTERS WHICH WE NEED TO RAISE WITH THEM ABOUT THIS PARTICULAR CASE.

Q. BUT YOU DON'T KNOW IF YOU HAVE SUCH MATTERS AT THE MOMENT?

A. I WILL CHECK THAT FOR YOU.

Q. IN THE INTERROGATION OR THE ANSWERS TO THE QUESTIONS,
WE HAVE SEEN REPORTS OUT OF CHILE THAT IN FACT THE
SUSPECTS HAVE NO ANSWERS, TOWNLEY PARTICULARLY ANSWERED
ONLY WITH HIS NAME AND NOTHING ELSE. IS THAT IN FACT THE
CASE?

A. I'M NOT ABLE TO GO INTO THAT FOR YOU. I SUGGEST THAT
YOU ASK THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE AS TO WHAT RESPONSE MR.
TOWNLEY MIGHT HAVE MADE. DO I HAVE FURTHER QUESTIONS ON
THE LETELIER MATTER?

Q. (FIRST PART INAUDIBLE) TO CHILE THERE WAS REQUESTED
TWO PERSONS INVOLVED. WHAT HAPPENED TO THE OTHER GUY,
TOWNLEY AND A CHILEAN? DO YOU KNOW THE STATUS?
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A. I DON'T KNOW WHAT THE STATUS OF THE OTHER ONE IS.

END QUOTE.

3. QUESTIONS TAKEN BY SPOKESMAN WILL NOT BE ANSWERED;
QUESTIONERS WILL BE REFERRED TO JUSTICE DEPARTMENT. VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ASSASSINATION, EXPULSION, PRESS COMMENTS, INVESTIGATIONS, COURT PROCEEDINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE091806
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: RSSTEVEN
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780155-0042
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780473/aaaackfv.tel
Line Count: 143
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: eb5d20b3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN ARA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3017711
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LETELIER/MOFFITT ASSASSINATION INVESTIGATION: TOWNLEY EXPULSION FROM CHILE
TAGS: PGOV, SHUM, CI, (LETELIER, ORLANDO), (TOWNLEY, MICHAEL)
To: SANTIAGO
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/eb5d20b3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014